



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park

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## New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

### News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### **Schooner Ernestina Returns to Massachusetts**

*Official vessel of the Commonwealth will make stops  
in Gloucester and Boston en route to New Bedford*

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) schooner Ernestina, the official vessel of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recently completed extensive renovations at the Boothbay Harbor Shipyard in Maine.

Weather and sea conditions permitting, Ernestina will leave Boothbay Harbor on Tuesday, May 5, and head back to the ship's home port of New Bedford. The schooner will have a half dozen crew members from the shipyard, and will be powered by its own 350 horsepower marine diesel engine.

"It will be great to have Ernestina back in the Commonwealth," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "And the fact that this 115-year-old ship is coming back here under its own power is quite exciting."

Paul Brawley, DCR's executive director of the ship, and Harold Burnham, an 11<sup>th</sup> generation Master Shipwright from Essex, oversaw the repairs to ensure work followed US Coast Guard standards as well as the Department of the Interior's Standards for Historic Vessel Preservation Projects.

The repairs, which involved a rehabilitation of the front half of the vessel above the waterline, were funded by a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, matched with \$500,000 from DCR's Partnerships Matching Funds Program and donations from the general public.

Ernestina is scheduled to leave Boothbay Harbor on Tuesday, May 5, and arrive in Gloucester at the Maritime Heritage center the following day, Wednesday, May 6, at noon.

According to the schedule, Ernestina will leave Gloucester Thursday morning, May 7, and arrive at Rows Wharf in Boston that day at noon. The schooner will go through the Cape Cod Canal on Friday, May 8, between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., and will anchor off the coast overnight. On Saturday, May 9, at noon, Ernestina will arrive at New Bedford State Pier, where a welcoming ceremony is planned.

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